DEF 12-5 ISR 0346

677

FOR OCIT USE ONLY

MAY 6 7 55 PM '65

OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

INDICATE: ☐ COLLECT ☐ CHARGE TO

SECRET

Classification

Origin

Info:

ACTION: CIRCULAR 2154

CIRCULAR 2154

Beirut newspaper AL HAYAT reports May 6 Israel has ordered ground-to-ground missiles from France to catch up in the rocket race with Egypt. Identified French missiles as MD-620's and/~~xxxxxx~~ claimed they had been tested for Israeli officers last month on rocket range on French coast. Claimed range of missiles was 310 miles--enough to reach Cairo or other neighboring Arab countries. Deliveries would be made toward the end of this year. Among possible explanations accuracy / ~~xxxxxxx~~ of details suggests story could be Israeli plant timed to coincide with Israel Independence Day parade. This would be logical follow on to French newspaper report December 6, 1964, that France in cooperation with Israel tested ground-to-ground ballistic missile in Sahara. In addition to obvious Independence Day impact, purpose might be to pave way for ease reaction to later disclosure missile deliveries.

Comments addressees requested. For time being Department proposes make no comment.

RUSK

ACTION: TEL AVIV, BEIRUT, CAIRO, PARIS

INFO: ALGIERS, AMMAN, BAGHDAD, DAMASCUS, JIDDA, KUWAIT, TAIZ, RABAT, TUNIS, TRIPOLI, LONDON

GP-3

END

REVIEWED BY 4 DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR DATE 2/1/81

RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☐
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

Drafted by: NEA:NE:HERussell:rvc:5/6/65

Telegraphic transmission and classification approved by: NEA - John D. Jernegan

Clearances:
NE - Mr. Davies
NEA/P - ~~Mr.~~ Ellison
~~xxxxx~~ AF - Mr. Higgins
INR - Mr. Spain
EUR - Mr. Amitay

SECRET

Classification

FORM DS-322 A-33

REPRODUCTION FROM THIS COPY IS PROHIBITED UNLESS "UNCLASSIFIED"